

What is STAR READY?

STAR READY is interim local recognition that can be achieved by a VPP Unit for successfully meeting the VPP criteria.

Does STAR READY replace the DOE-VPP STAR program?

It doesn't....STAR READY is not another program, but it is a recognition tool. The purpose of the interim recognition is to encourage and recognize those Units who have made significant progress toward having the culture and the safety systems necessary to achieve DOE-VPP STAR Status.

At what level will STAR READY recognition be applied at the INEEL?

It will apply at the VPP Unit level only. Each of the VPP Units has the opportunity to apply for and achieve STAR READY status. This participation level is consistent with the VPP infrastructure that has already been established.

What criteria will be used to determine STAR READY status?

The DOE-VPP criteria will be used as listed in the U.S. Department of Energy VPP Part I: Program Elements and the Part IV: Onsite Review Handbook. Using this criterion ensures that we are consistent with the INEEL's efforts to achieve DOE-VPP STAR status.

To be eligible for STAR READY consideration, scores of 80 and above with no outstanding priority 1 findings is expected for each of the five major program elements. The scoring system is that used by STAR Consultants in the December 1998, assessment.

With program element scores in the 80's, Units will have 60 days to resolve any priority 1 findings to remain eligible for consideration for STAR READY status. If unable to correct Priority 1 findings in this time frame, the Unit will need to wait until the next assessment for consideration.

How will the Unit be recognized?

Successful Units will be presented a STAR READY flag by the VPP Project Office.

Who will conduct the STAR READY assessments?

The assessments will be performed by a 3rd party subcontractor and will be coordinated by the VPP Project Office.

The VPP Project office “and” the subcontractor will jointly review the actions relating to any priority 1 findings and determine the adequacy of resolution.

When is the first opportunity to be accessed for STAR READY status?

The December 1998, assessment performed by STAR Consultants will serve as the baseline for this recognition. Units can use the data from this assessment to determine their qualification for STAR READY status.

How often will the subcontractor perform assessments?

Generally, assessments will be performed every 6 months.

IF a Unit is recognized as STAR READY, how often will it undergo an assessment?

Only once every 18 months to ensure continuous improvement, or when there is an upward “trend” for a quarter in injury/illness statistics.

A STAR READY Unit will also be exempt from any internal Safety and Health related Independent Performance Assessments (IPA) while maintaining STAR READY status.

Can a Unit lose STAR READY status?

Yes—if the scores of an 18 month assessment falls below 80, then continued status will be seriously considered by the VPP Project office